

SEC football media days

Pressure on \$75M man Fisher to deliver Texas A&M a title. – Sports, 1C



Making the whole world sing

Camp uses music to teach girls about art, leadership, confidence. – Style, 1E

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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In the news

■ **Matt Ballard**, district attorney in Rogers County, Okla., is cracking down on people for not returning rental DVDs, sending letters to several hundred residents spelling out fines and fees that start at \$200 and offering a payment plan to avoid the filing of charges.

■ **Samantha Jones**, 30, of New Britain Township, Pa., faces a criminal homicide charge after prosecutors accused her of feeding her 11-week-old son a lethal mix of drugs in her breast milk including methadone, amphetamine and methamphetamine.

■ **Shon Middleton**, whose brother, Calvin, was struck and killed while riding a bicycle in Grand Prairie, Texas, said he was told by police investigators that the driver got out, glanced at the victim and got back into her car before fleeing the scene.

■ **Basar Manullang**, an Indonesian wildlife official, said a mob in West Papua province illegally slaughtered 292 crocodiles in retaliation for the death of a 48-year-old man who was killed when he entered the area around a breeding pond.

■ **Raymon Hryb**, 49, and his brother, Jonathan, 41, who used vulgar language as they talked about using a gun on a flight from Atlanta to Connecticut, were arrested for causing “alarm and annoyance” when their plane landed at an airport in Windsor Locks, police said.

■ **Marybeth Tinning**, 75, convicted of killing her infant daughter in the 1980s and a suspect in the deaths of seven of her eight other children, was granted parole on her seventh attempt since being imprisoned in 1987, New York corrections officials said.

■ **Jordan Langdon**, a 19-year-old college sophomore whose most recent political experience was serving as president of his high school marching band, said he couldn't think of a better way to help people than by running for mayor of Auburn, Ala.

■ **David Martinez**, 38, a City Council candidate in St. Paul, Minn., was accused of violating the state's revenge pornography law and arrested after a topless picture of his estranged wife was posted to his campaign website, prompting calls from Mayor Melvin Carter for Martinez to drop out of the race.

■ **Mike Shaw**, a Michigan State Police lieutenant, said a 7-year-old who sent text messages to police when her drunken father crashed into an abandoned vehicle on a Detroit interstate died when she got out of the car seeking help and was struck by a passing vehicle.

WEATHER
LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly sunny with a chance of thunderstorms.
High 93.
Tonight
Clouds will increase with a lingering chance of showers.
Low 74.

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Trump's remarks stir D.C. criticism

Crawford, others: Putin's no friend

FRANK E. LOCKWOOD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
WASHINGTON — A congressman from Arkansas who serves on the House Intelligence Committee didn't like what he heard from President Donald Trump during Monday's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Among other things, the American head of state expressed doubts about claims of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections.

U.S. Rep. Rick Crawford, a Republican from Jonesboro, says the evidence is hard to ignore.

“I think the findings in the House Intelligence Committee have been clear and forthright and they demonstrate, unequivocally, that the Russians employed active measures in an effort to influence our election here,” Crawford said. “It doesn't necessarily

See **CRITICISM**, Page 5A

Trump: Putin's denial strong



President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands during a joint news conference at the Presidential Palace on Monday in Helsinki.

Doubt cast on Russian interference

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS
HELSINKI — President Donald Trump cast doubt on the conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, saying after his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki on Monday that the autocrat gave him a “very powerful” denial.

After Putin said his government played no role in trying to sabotage the U.S. election, Trump offered no push-back and went on to condemn the Justice Department's investigation of Russian interference as “a disaster for our country.”

Trump's meeting with Putin was his first time sharing the international stage with a man he has described as an important U.S. competitor but whom he has also praised as a strong, effective leader.

Concluding their first formal one-on-one summit Monday, Trump said his message regarding the

See **TRUMP**, Page 4A

Smoke blankets Yosemite



AP/NOAH BERGER

A fire transport travels along California 140, one of the entrances to Yosemite National Park, on Monday in Mariposa, Calif. The road remains closed to visitors as crews battle a deadly wildfire burning near the west end of Yosemite National Park.

Article, 2A

Family deportations blocked

U.S. judge sides with ACLU on behalf of reunited migrants

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

A federal judge in California on Monday temporarily blocked the government from deporting families that were recently reunited after being separated by immigration authorities at the Southwest border.

Judge Dana Sabraw of the U.S. District Court in San Diego granted a request to allow families extra time to discuss the “momentous” and “exceedingly complex” decision of whether to leave the United States or continue to fight their immigration cases.

Normally, families would have days or weeks to consider such a decision, but the separation of families and the rush to reunite them in response to an earlier court order has rendered such discussions difficult for most.

The request for a stay, made by the American Civil Liberties Union, came after the government last week said it was prepared to move quickly to carry out large numbers of reunifications in the coming weeks, facing a July 26 court deadline for re-

turning all eligible separated children to their parents.

The ACLU and other migrant advocates raised concerns that swift reunifications could also lead to swift deportations, which could limit due process. In its request to the judge, the ACLU pointed to “persistent and increasing rumors — which defendants have refused to deny — that mass deportations may be carried out imminently and immediately upon reunification.”

Sabraw imposed a delay of at least a week.

See **FAMILY**, Page 8A

Two tribes pour money into ballot measure on casinos

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Quapaw and Cherokee tribes collectively contributed \$1.2 million in June to the Driving Arkansas Forward committee promoting a proposed constitutional amendment that would authorize the state to license four casinos.

The Quapaw Tribe also

HOSPITAL GROUP backs measure on torts, courts. Page 7A.

CANDIDATES for state posts file finances. Page 1B.

made a non-monetary contribution of more than \$180,000 last month to the Arkansas Jobs Coalition committee that also backs the proposed bal-

lot measure. The tribe paid that much to a petition canvassing firm.

Monday was the deadline for ballot question committees to file their reports with the Arkansas Ethics Commission for June. Others that filed regarded proposals on minimum wage and term limits.

Earlier this month, the

sponsors of the casino proposal estimated they turned in 96,170 signatures of registered voters to the secretary of state's office in their bid to qualify their ballot measure for the Nov. 6 general election ballot. The secretary of state's office is in the process of determining whether the sponsors turned in at least 84,859 valid signatures — the mini-

mum needed — or whether they meet the threshold to get 30 more days to collect more signatures.

The proposed amendment would require the state Racing Commission to issue licenses for casinos in: Pope County, within 2 miles of Russellville; Jefferson County, within 2 miles of Pine Bluff; See **CASINO**, Page 7A

Billionaires fuel groups behind charter schools

Waltons common source in Arkansas

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
AND WIRE REPORTS

SEATTLE — Dollar for dollar, the movement to bring charter schools to Washington state has had no bigger champion than billionaire Bill Gates.

The Microsoft co-founder gave millions of dollars to see a charter school law approved despite multiple failed ballot referendums. And his private foundation not only helped create the Washington State Charter Schools Association, but has at times contributed what amounts to an entire year's worth of revenue for the 5-year-old charter advocacy group.

All told, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has

given about \$25 million to the charter group that is credited with keeping the charter schools open after the state struck down the law, and then lobbying legislators to revive the privately run, publicly funded schools.

Since 2006, philanthropists and their private foundations and charities have given almost half a billion dollars to those groups, according to an Associated Press analysis of tax filings and Foundation Center data. The review looked at 52 groups noted by a U.S. Department of Education website as official charter school resources in the 44 states plus Washington, D.C., that currently have a charter law, as well as the National

See **CHARTER**, Page 8A

Obama visits Kenya



AP/BRIAN INGANGA

Former President Barack Obama talks to children Monday in Kogelo, Kenya. Obama is in Kenya to launch a sports and training center founded by his half sister, Auma Obama.